

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10 BIB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01

NIC-01 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 /087 W

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O 231047Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 94

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 1300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, US

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA ON U.S.

FORCE LEVEL TALKS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA GAVE A
NEWS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22, 1975. THE FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS
CONCERNING U.S. FORCE LEVEL TALKS EXCERPTED FROM AN UNOFFICIAL
USIS TRANSLATION:

CHARUNPHAN

I INVITED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO COME TO MEET ME HERE THIS
MORNING IN ORDER TO TURN OVER TO HIM THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC
COOPERATION...

IN ADDITION, WE DISCUSSED A SUBJECT WHICH IS MAKING NEWS IN NEWS-
PAPERS. IT IS THAT AFTER THE END OF 1974 THAT THE SUBJECT OF HE
WITHDAAL OF TROOPS WOULD BE REVIEWED AGAIN. BUT WE FIRST DISCUSSED
THE SITUATION IN INCOCHINA AT PRESENT, WHERE REPORTS MAKE IT FELT
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THAT THE SITUATION HAS INCREASED IN VIOLENCE, THUS CAUSING CONCERN

FOR THAILAND. AND THE UNITED STATES FEELS CONCERN ALSO. THIS IS WHY WE DISCUSSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS LAST AND WE AGREED THAT WE WILL ENTRUST THAT SUBJECT TO OFFICIALS CALLED THE THAI AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE. ON OUR SIDE, IT IS COMPOSED OF BOTH MILITARY OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ON THE OTHER SIDE, IT IS COMPOSED OF AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. SINCE WE FEEL THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD START CONSIDERATION AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE, A VIEW APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE, WHEN A DATE IS FIXED I BELIEVE IT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE BEFORE THE END OF THE TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT...
REPORTER: DID YOU SAY THAT THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER DETAILS CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA ALSO?

CHARUNPHAN: YES. INCLUDING EVERYTHING, BOTH THE SITUATION AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

REPORTER: WILL AN ANNOUNCEMENT BE ISSUED ON THIS SUBJECT?

CHARUNPHAN: WHETHER AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS ISSUED OR NOT DEPENDS ON RESULTS OF STUDY MADE. FOR INSTANCE, AFTER REVIEWING THE SITUATION IT MUST BE STUDIED ALSO.

REPORTER: WHEN YOU SAID BEFORE THE END OF THE TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, WHAT DATE DID YOU MEAN?

CHARUNPHAN: BEFORE JANUARY 26.

REPORTER: WHAT WILL BE THE DEFINITE DATE FOR THE MEETING?

CHARUNPHAN: WE USED THE WORDS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"....

REPORTERS THEMSELVES CAME AND REMINDED ME AND URGED ME TO TAKE ACTION, PUTTING PERTINENT QUESTIONS TO ME, SUCH AS EMPHASIZING THAT I SAID THAT WHEN I WENT TO NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY I MET U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND WE DISCUSSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES TO THE TOTAL OF 10,000 MEN, AS WELL AS THE WITHDRAWAL OF HUNDREDS OF PLANES, ETC. WHEN THE END OF THE YEAR WAS REACHED, THE SITUATION WOULD BE REVIEWED AGAIN IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE FURTHER WITHDRAWALS. THESE

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WERE QUESTIONS PUT TO ME, THEREFORE I FELT I STILL HAD THE COMMITMENT AND DUTY TO CARRY OUT THE STATEMENTS I HAD MADE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE BEFORE JANUARY 26. THIS IS WHY I USED THE WORDS "AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE". I, TOO, WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT I HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT THE FACILITIES PROVIDED TO AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES TO USE AIR BASES OR BASES IN THAILAND IS WITH THE OBJECTIVE TO KEEP CLOSE WATCH OVER THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN PARIS NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, TO SEE WHETHER

THAT AGREEMENT IS CONFORMED TO OR NOT. THIS MEANS THAT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HERE IS NOT IN ORDER FOR THEM TO GO AND COMMIT AGGRESSION OR FOR THEM TO BE USED FOR ANY ACTIVITY USING ARMED FORCES, BUT IN ORDER TO SEE THAT AGREEMENT OBTAINS RESULTS

AS INTENDED AND AS AGREED ON. SINCE ALL TALK IS ON WITHDRAWALS CONTINUALLY, I WISH TO REMIND YOU OF THIS BECAUSE I WISH YOU TO PAY FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA ON WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED NEWS REPORTS IN FULL ALREADY, ESPECIALLY SINCE ALL MASS MEDIA FOLLOW UP VARIOUS NEW REPORTS VERY CLOSELY ALL THE TIME...

REPORTER: IS THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES STILL A NECESSITY

NOW?

CHARUNPHAN: THAT IS A SUBJECT WHICH I HAVE ENTRUSTED TO THE THAI-AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE, BECAUSE IT CONCERNS THE MILITARY, NOT

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ONLY. THEREFORE, I WISH IT TO BE CONSIDERED THOROUGHLY AND JOINTLY BY OFFICIALS OF BOTH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

REPORTER: SHOULD THIS COMMITTEE DECIDE FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWALS TO BE CARRIED OUT, OR TO HALT FURTHER WITHDRAWALS, WHAT ACTION WILL BE A TAKEN AS THE NEXT STEP?

CHARUNPHAN: A REPORT MUST BE MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND ESPECIALLY SHOULD THERE BE A NEW GOVERNMENT. I AM CERTAIN THAT REGARDLESS WHAT DECISION IS MADE THIS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT, THAT ANY DECISION THIS COMMITTEE MAKES WILL NOT BE A FINAL

ONE....

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REPORTER: IN REGARD TO DEMANDS MADE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY FORCES, IT IS SAID THAT WHEN FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI WENT TO RED CHINA AND MET CHOU EN-LAI,

THAT THE LATTER APPROVED THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN BASES IN THAILAND? IS THAT TRUE?

CHARUNPHAN: I CANNOT REMEMBER THAT I HAVE HEARD THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WAS MADE OR THAT THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED, AS REPORTED, BECAUSE IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS UP TO THAILAND WHETHER THEY REMAIN OR ARE PULLED OUT, OR THAT IT IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

END.

KINTNER

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